

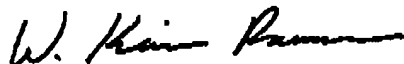
Appl. No.: 09/686,402
Filed: October 10, 2000
Amdt. dated 10/25/2004

REMARKS

This amendment is filed in response to a telephone conference with the Examiner on October 19, 2004, wherein the Examiner indicated that claims 30-34 included allowable subject matter. In light of this Applicant hereby cancels Claims 1-29 and Claims 41-72. Further, Applicant has amended Claims 30-32. In light of these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 30-32 and Claims 33-40 that depend from these claims are patentable over the cited references. Applicant requests that these amendments be entered and that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

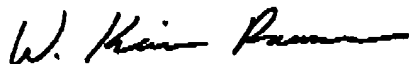


W. Kevin Ransom
Registration No. 45,031

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at
Fax No. (703) 746-9237 on the date shown below.



W. Kevin Ransom

October 25, 2004

Date